

WHY GOD IS

IMPOSSIBLE

R R Deehan

The Simple Science Explaining Why All Religions Are Nonsense

**WHY
GOD
IS
IMPOSSIBLE**

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First Edition.

ISBN-13: 978-1548240073

ISBN-10: 1548240079

-Introduction-

1st May

Gods, miracles, heavens, hells, next lives... Whatever your 'opinion' on these topics, there's something important you should know. The debate is finally over, because science says conclusively that **ALL religions are incompatible with a real universe**. This book is an expansion of a single chapter from my previous book 'Nevermind', and explains the surprisingly simple science that confirms why atheists are, and always have been correct.

If you're an atheist, you should read this book so that you no longer have to waste your life arguing with the religious over inconsistencies in their holy texts, or answer yet again their usual suspect questions, such as how the universe popped into existence without a 'creator', whether there's a 'divine plan', or even if a 'heaven' is possible. You can now simply give them some cast-iron science which will enable them to figure it all out for themselves.

If you're religious, you should also read the book, because as you should already know, faith can't exist without doubt, in the same way bravery can't exist without fear, so it will be an opportunity for you to test your faith, something your 'god' is apparently very keen on. Whether or not you can understand that it's actually 'game over' for religion, it will certainly help you expand your mental horizons.

Good luck, pilgrim.

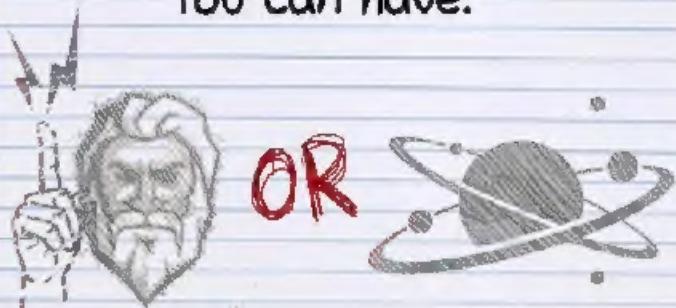
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NO GODS ALLOWED

From the BIG BANG onwards,
any 'god' or 'deity' interfering
supernaturally in a real universe
would destroy it.

You can have:



You can't have both. Reason?

CAUSALITY.

Physical Causality: at the macroscopic level, events are caused by previous events in accordance with physical laws. A causally-valid event is therefore actually part of a chain of such events stretching back to the Big Bang.

Nevermind, Chap 23.

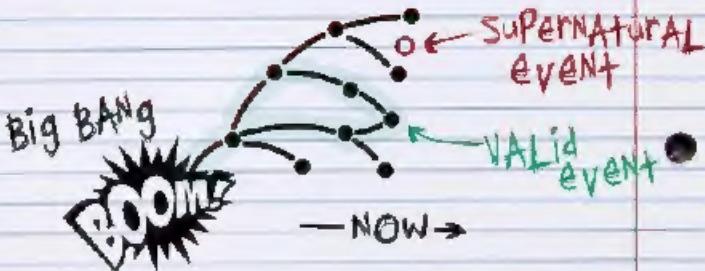


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SUPERNATURAL EVENTS

are alleged events that can't be explained given the previous state of the universe and the laws that govern it. Defining characteristic?

INVALID CAUSALITY TRAIL



* A **valid event** has a causality trail linking it right back to the Big Bang. That unbroken chain **EXPLAINS** the event.

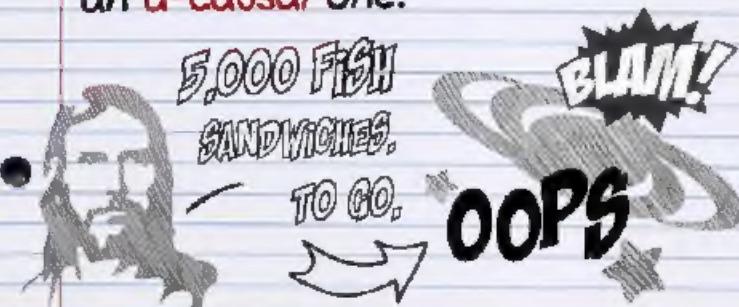
* A **supernatural event** would have no such unbroken causality history, making it **A-CAUSAL**.

Supernatural interference would be BAD NEWS. In fact, just one such a-causal event would make the entire universe a-causal.
NEVERMIND Chap 23



WANT TO SEE A MIRACLE?

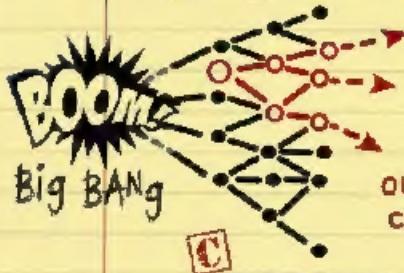
Your answer should be '**NO**' because a 'miracle' would be a supernatural event. A single miracle would therefore end our causal universe, replacing it with an **a-causal** one.



WAIT! Here's A Workaround!

Maybe a 'PARTLY CAUSAL' universe is possible. Problem goes away!

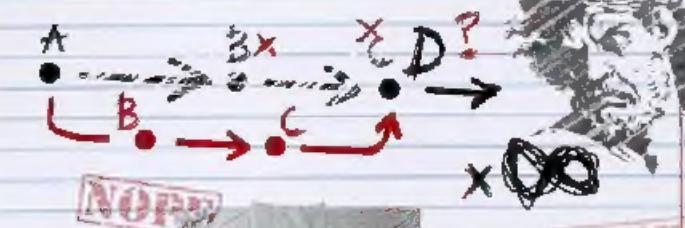
NO IT DOESN'T



One a-causal event would infect every other event in range, virally rippling outwards at light-speed corrupting all causality chains in its path

DIVINE WORKAROUND #2

Deity **FAKES** a causality trail for the a-causal event by adjusting the history of every particle in the universe across 13.8 billion years.
Problem goes away!



NOPE That would simply turn it from a supernatural event to a natural one, and it would actually be a 'hard reset', obliterating everything that had taken place so far, replacing it with a fake alternative universe that NEVER HAPPENED. Nevermind: Page 248

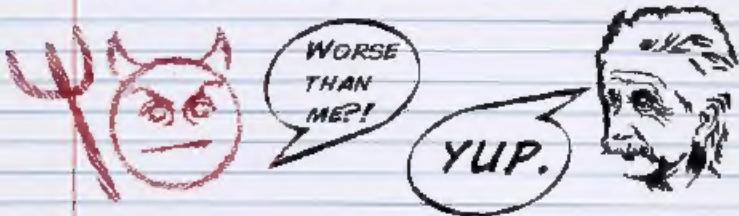
Just 1 possibility remains:- gods can only exist totally within the universe, and must restrict themselves to causally-justifiable actions.

If that is the case, where are these deities?
Why have we never observed them? How are they 'divine' if they exist in the same universe as us, and are restricted to the same physical laws as us?

Nevermind: Page 243

IS CAUSALITY REALLY SO VITAL?

Yes. The nightmare chaos of an a-causal universe would make 'hell' look like a stroll in the park.



NO A \Rightarrow B, NO REALITY.

Everything at the macroscopic level depends on causality. If you can't see why, here's your poster-boy:- in a universe where the past isn't causal, there's no...

FREE WILL



A-causal events would occur spontaneously; there would be no way to explain them using physical laws and the previous state of the universe. It would therefore become impossible for you to 'decide', because your 'decisions', as events, would now be nothing but random selections.

Nevermind, P. 243

NEVERMIND
www.nevermind.com

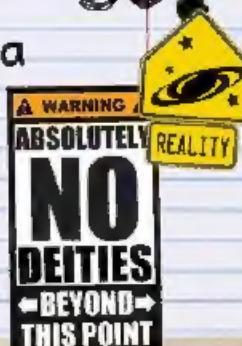
...Is free will even possible at all?

Nevermind, Chap 23

PRAY IT AIN'T SO!

If gods can't interfere in a real universe, they can't respond to your prayers.

In fact, gods can't even
OBSERVE the universe,
because...



Quantum mechanics 101: observing a particle affects it. Extracting information from a physical system requires interaction with its particles, which would be supernatural interference, destroying causality yet again.

So... no one can hear your prayers, and nobody is ever going to respond. That would explain why a just & fair god would allow **evil** in the world. The god can't do anything about it, and doesn't even know it's happening. In short:-



* PRAYING IS TALKING TO YOURSELF *



The GOOD BOOK(S)

It also means that the various religious texts weren't written by gods, or dictated divinely to bronze-age goat herders. Inserting information into human brains would count as interfering with the universe supernaturally, which would... end it.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM THEN?



Now you know why an average religious text reads like it was written by J.K. Rowling, off her tits on tequila.

RULES OF QUIDDITCH

1. THIGHBOOTS.

2. LOADS OF BALLS.

SNATCH
SWAT
SWITCH



BUT GOD HAS A PLAN, RIGHT?

"Everything is part of God's plan" they say. Unfortunately, a 'divine plan' is **impossible** in a real universe because the future can't be predicted perfectly, even by an 'omnipotent' being. This is because of randomness at the very smallest scale, and:-

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle

"Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle" states that certain pairs of physical properties of a particle can't be simultaneously measured to arbitrary levels of accuracy. The more precisely the position of a particle is determined, for example, the less precisely its momentum can be known, and vice versa.

Nevermind. Page 21



Heisenberg's
Uncertainty
Principle

"YOU CAN HAVE POSITION OR MOMENTUM,
CHOOSE WISELY!"

Heisenberg! Dead ahead!

Or dead astern. Or to starboard somewhere. The Uncertainty Principle affects our entire technological civilisation, including computer chip design and nanotech. It's also both mathematically and logically non-negotiable.



THE UNIVERSE . . .

IT'S

UNPREDICTABLE!

The more imprecise your starting conditions, the less accurate your predictions. Even tiny amounts of inaccuracy add up, snowballing chaotically, so the further out from 'now' you go, the more random it gets, just like weather forecasts.

"Not even an 'omnipotent' god can do the impossible. Make a square circle, for example. Or predict the unpredictable.

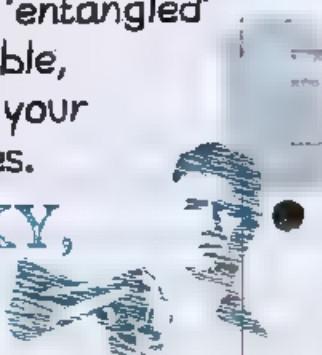


Never mind, eh?"

The UNiVERSE IS iNDETERMINATE

Never mind Heisenberg, at the quantum scale, it's all **inherently random**. That's a good job too, or there'd be all sorts of irresolvable problems. For example, faster-than-light communication via 'entangled' particles would be possible, allowing a range of 'kill your own ancestor' paradoxes.

FEELING LUCKY, GRANDPA?



Bottom line: Deities can't interfere in a real universe AFTER the Big Bang, and they can't 'line everything up' BEFORE the Big Bang.

SO EVEN IF 'GODS' EXIST...

...they didn't deliberately create the Earth, or life, or the human race, or YOU. In other words, you're **UNPLANNED, baby**.

NO PLAN, NO PURPOSE

The impossibility of a 'divine plan' resolves another issue religious folks wrestle with daily:- how to reconcile it with free will. You can have free will because there IS **no plan**. It also means there's no 'divine purpose' to your life either.



AND
THAT
IS
JUST...

EADDI
EADDI
GROOVY!

TIME FOR A RECAP.

* No god can interfere supernaturally in a real universe, or even observe it from 'outside' because that would terminate causality, and with it, any possibility of free will.



* No intervention or observation means that gods can't even hear prayers, let alone respond to them



* There's no 'divine plan' for the universe because not even an omnipotent being can predict the future perfectly, thanks to quantum-scale randomness and Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle.

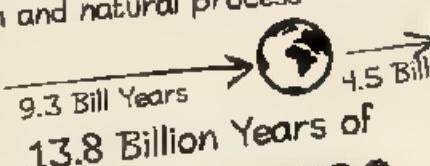


* Same reason, there's no 'divine purpose' to your life, snowflake.



* HUMANS AREN'T 'SPECIAL'

The Earth, life, and humans are the accidental result of a long-running, simple, random and natural process



RANDOMNESS



BIG BANG? SERIOUSLY?

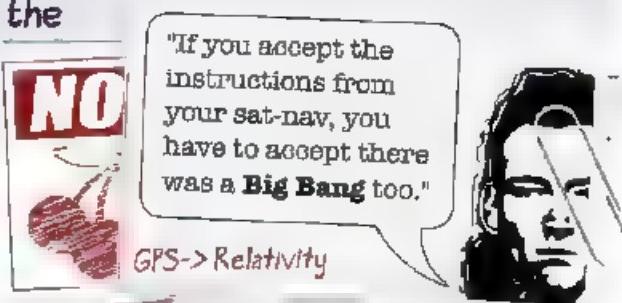
Most creation myths claim that a deity 'boinged' everything into existence.

The Earth, humans, wallabies, tapeworms, the lot. Despite the fact we can observe the Big Bang's afterglow

in the sky, religious types seem to assume that doing away with it will solve the problem of indeterminacy.



1. It doesn't matter how long ago the universe sprang into being; everything from THAT point onwards is still subject to indeterminacy, including YOUR existence.
2. The Big Bang is part of a coherent interconnected body of knowledge. You can't cherry-pick the bits you like and deny the rest.



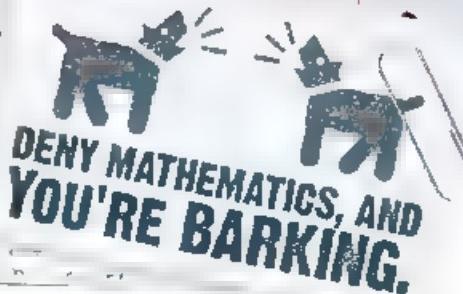
SCIENCE DENIAL

Rejecting the Big Bang is the start of a slippery slide into full-on science denial. For example, evolution requires the kind of timescales the Big Bang allows. No Big Bang, no evolution, which is why the 'creationists', who think the Earth is only about 6,000 years old, have to defend the ludicrous idea that the entire fossil record was 'faked by Satan' or something. Evolution is useful as an example of science denial, because as George Hrab says:-



To deny evolution, ultimately you have to deny mathematics, because science is a pyramid of connected blocks, **ALL** of which are required for **ANY** of it to work. Modern medicine, for example, **RELIES** on evolution theory.

DIPHTHERIA/ TETANUS BOOSTER	polio	7/22/12
MENINGITIS B		7/31/12
TYPHOID		



BIG BANG? OR BIG BOING?

The Catholic Church recently accepted that the Big Bang actually happened and evolution is real. That was a good bit of sciencing by the Pope, even if he then spoiled it by trying to credit it to his imaginary friend. His Popeliness jumping ship from 'Big Boing' to 'Big Bang' totally screwed over the creationists who must have felt a bit like this:-

BIG BANG?
GOD DID
IT!

HA HA



ARK
ENCOUNTER

Could the Purple Popester be right for once? Could the Big Bang really have been kicked off by a deity? You can work out the answer to that one fairly easily, using nothing except:-

OCCAM'S

Est. Razor 1327

Going with the simpler solution since 1327

IT'S SHAVIN' TIME.

Occam's Razor has many definitions, but in layman's terms, they all essentially boil down to:-

"THE SIMPLER SOLUTION IS MORE LIKELY TO BE RIGHT"

That gives us a rational way to think about why there was a Big Bang or even if it actually had a 'cause' at all. To start, just pick the simpler option:-

OPTION 1.



OPTION 2.



Now you know what intelligence is, and what's required for it to arise, you should be able to answer this question: if an event such as the **Big Bang** could be caused either by deliberate intelligent activity or a natural yet necessary phenomenon, which is the simpler solution?

Nevermind. I guess it's

KEEPING IT SIMPLE,



Keeping it real. YOU use Occam's Razor all day long, every day, because it provides the maximum survival value. It works. For example, if you find a puddle of cat puke on your stairs, you assume the cat did it. You don't invent a fantasy tale about space aliens, and vomit-based communication. ✓ Likewise, the Big Bang is THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION explaining how the universe began.

But it All looks so...designed!

Apply the Razor. The very simplest explanation for everything you see around you is:

REALITY =



to assume that the apparent complexity of the universe can only be the work of a super intelligent creator is naive. All that's actually required is a **Big Bang**, quantum-scale randomness, and an immense amount of time (which suffices to produce all the apparent chaos too).

WHAT CAUSED THE BIG BANG?

Short answer: science doesn't know. YET.
Unlike religion, science is **honest**, and
admits when there isn't yet a significantly
confident answer. That's not a weakness,
it's science's greatest strength. There
will always be things left to discover, and
the answer never has been and NEVER
will be "god did it".

WASN'T ME

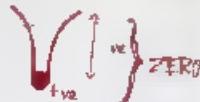
The question may actually
have no answer, because
time began at the Big Bang,
so there was no 'before', just
like there's nothing 'north' of the north pole.



THE FLAT UNIVERSE



What we do know is that the universe is **flat**, so its total energy sums to **zero**. The question then resolves to "How did THAT form of nothing transition into THIS form of nothing?".



It also means we already know how everything will end, which is half the story.

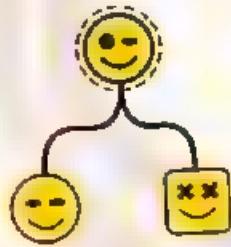
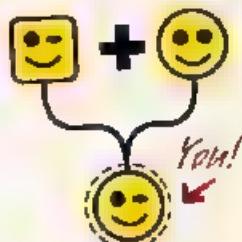
HOW DOES A BANG LEAD TO 'LIFE'?

■ We don't **YET** have a definitive answer for this one either:- it's another frontier of science. It currently looks like life may have begun as a mechanical response by matter to the presence of an energy gradient. After that, we **ARE** on solid ground, because it's all...

EVOLUTION

Not as complicated as you think!

Living things inherit their DNA from their ancestors, but there are differences each time. That's why you look **a bit** like Mom & Dad, but aren't an exact copy.



Your kids will be slightly different to you, and even more different to **your** Mom and Dad. Some differences help a critter survive, so they get passed down more often to the kids automatically. Over the generations, those small differences add up into **BIG** ones.

And That's Evolution!

NEVER MIND
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THE AFTERLIFE (S).

So far, religion hasn't been able to deliver on any of its promises because of the same basic physics that supports your everyday existence. Does it have anything else worth investigating?



HeAVEN, HELL, ReINCARNATION

The 2 main types of religions are 'Santa' religions and 'Merry-go-round' religions. All the heavens, hells, or next lives they offer require 'YOU' to survive the termination of your physical existence, usually achieved by means of a 'SOUL', A.K.A 'spirit', 'atman', 'store consciousness', 'vital essence' etc.

SOUL HAS WEIGHT, PHYSICIAN THINKS

Dr. Macdougall of Haverhill Tells of Experiments

HE 'WEIGHED HUMAN'S

Dr. Duncan MacDougall, Known His Experiments, Dies at Haverhill, Mass., Oct. Duncan MacDougall, a surgeon particularly for his experiments



Unretouched photo of soul leaving body

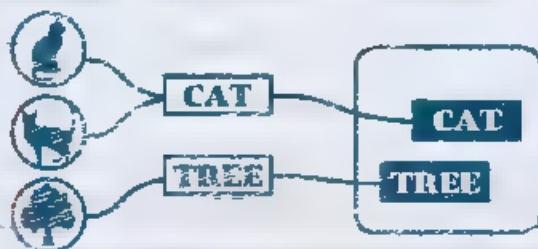
'YOU': A QUICK INTRODUCTION

- As you'll already know if you've read 'Nevermind: You, deconstructed', your mind is purely physical, and is an ongoing encoding of your experiences, both internal and external. The 'YOU' inside your mind is an **extremely** specific subset of those encodings, as defined in 'Nevermind' (page 235).

Properties, Objects, Models

- The simple thought experiments in 'Nevermind' allowed you to witness firsthand how your mind at the conceptual level is built from a tiny set of components, namely:-

PROPERTIES OBJECTS MODELS



"so far, we've found no sign of a soul, and perhaps more significantly, no indication that there's even a need for one. Everything you do inside your mind can be explained by mental modelling"

NO SOUL REQUIRED

From basic recognition, through awareness and volition, up into reasoning and even self-awareness; all the activities taking place within your mind are accounted for by mental modelling. At no point do we have to stop and call out for a supernatural component, such as a 'soul'.

No evidence? No Problem!

The lack of physical evidence for souls, and the fact they aren't required to explain your mind doesn't worry the religious. They insist that souls are somehow your non-physical essence, and along with heaven and hell, don't exist in the real universe.



.. this raises a serious problem, summarised as '**what happens in spacetime stays in spacetime**'. The mental assets that encode your experiences may be conceptual, but they map to real structures in physical spacetime. Your memories, in other words, are stored in your brain, so to persist 'you' after death, the encoding of those experiences would have to be preserved too.

NO HEAVEN FOR YOU

Your mind (and therefore 'YOU') is **totally physical**, but even if that wasn't the case, and souls actually existed, 'YOU' are at least **partly physical**. The medical evidence that you store memories in your brain is simply unchallengeable now. So to move 'YOU' to a heaven, hell, or Valhalla, your life's experiences, in the form of the information physically encoded into your neurons & synapses, would have to be moved too.

Fresh brains

The obvious way this might be accomplished would be for a deity to **physically remove** your brain at the moment of death, and somehow re-animate it elsewhere, to enable 'YOU' to continue existing. There haven't been any reports of 'divine brain robbing' recently, so we can probably discount that one.

it would also entail the deity interfering in this universe, which, as you've seen at some length, would destroy causality.

WELCOME TO CLONE ZONE

Are there any other ways to move 'you' to a heaven or hell?

Here's the only other possibility: the deity could copy the information in your brain and move the copy.



NOPE

NOPE

NOPE

NOPE

The first problem with this is that in a real universe, you can't make an absolutely perfect copy of anything, because of Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. The best that even an omnipotent being could do would be to make a very good copy.



The second problem is that even a perfect copy of 'you' is not 'you'. Think about it like this:-

If it was somehow possible to create an absolutely perfect duplicate of you, right now, would you be happy to be painlessly killed, as long as the copy persisted? I'm guessing the answer is still 'no', for the same kind of reasons that would make you feel unhappy to be punished for crimes committed by an exact copy of yourself

SO EVEN IF GODS EXIST

- They can't transfer the physical components of your mind or body to a heaven or hell without interfering in the universe, which would destroy causality, and end free will. A 'copy' of 'YOU' doesn't cut it either, because it's impossible to make a perfect copy of anything in a real universe. (Merry Christmas, Mr Heisenberg). Even if that was possible, a copy isn't 'you'.
- Also, making a copy would require interaction with its particles, which once again ends causality.



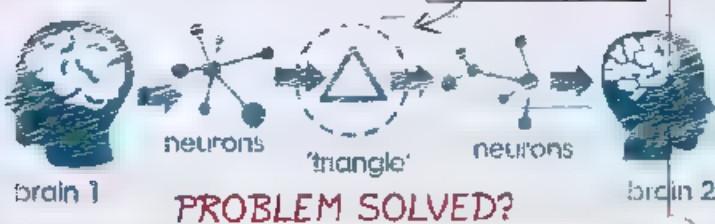
Did you just say
'irrelevant'???



In short, even if deities do exist, they didn't deliberately create you, you can't interact with them during life, and after death there's no way for you to meet them. www.madmag.com Page 263

REINCARNATION, REBIRTH

Merry-go-round religions face even bigger problems than Santa religions. To reincarnate 'YOU', the information physically encoded into your brain would have to be moved to a new brain, and there's your first problem. The mininet of neurons **you** use to represent (for example) a 'triangle' are in a different location and are configured differently to every other brain on the planet. Your brain structure is literally unique. So... the information would have to be translated with some kind of mental 'Rosetta Stone'.



...nope. The brains of newborn babies are essentially blank slates, the synaptic pruning defining a person's root mental structures happens over time, and is a well-documented medical fact. **How then would the older 'you' mesh into that?** It would have to be possible for the old version of 'you' to be mapped to a new sense-mind arrangement **before** the structure of that new arrangement had even begun to form. Nevermind Page 441



REINCARNATION = POSSESSION

- The only workaround to this issue would be to drip-feed a suitably translated form of the old 'you' into the new 'you' after the new brain had learned how to interpret and encode sensory information on its own account; say by 5 or 6 years old. However, the technical term for this is '**possession**', not reincarnation, because by that point it's a whole **new person**, and overwriting it with a different older personality would be a horrific thing to do.

TOO MANY PROBLEMS TO LIST

Human minds are **purely physical**, and even if you deny that, you can't deny that our minds are at least **partly physical**. The result is that reincarnation has too many problems to list, so here are a few examples to get you going.

- * Reincarnating from human
→ animal. How do you cram
the complexity of a human
mind into the tiny brain of
(e.g.) a cat?



.. * where can you store a **perfect copy** of the old 'you' until required? There's no medical evidence for that storage, which would imply that it must be held outside this universe... Interference from outside the universe... destroys causality
Nevermind Page 2

REINCARNATION PROBLEMS (CONT.)

* Brain storage capacity. The Buddha was said to be able to recall hundreds of past lives. Nature doesn't overengineer solutions, and our brains can't store an infinite amount of information, so where were all these past experiences and translation mechanisms held?

* Reincarnating from animal -> human... how do you map (e.g.) the electric senses of a shark to a human?



...or the sonar senses enjoyed by bats or whales for that matter. Are we only 'reincarnating BITS of you'?

If you're contending that only some of you gets reborn, it's not exactly 'you anymore, is it, which also highlights the problem of how much 'you' needs to be carried over in order for it to be unequivocally still 'you'. It's a moot point, of course, because **you can't make a perfect copy of an analogue phenomenon such as your mind in a real universe**. Even a smattering of logic seems to generate irresolvable problems for reincarnation religions, so it's surprising how popular the idea is..

MORALITY TALES

- Does religion have anything else to offer? The religious often claim that without their gods, there could be no morality. That's actually ass-backwards, because morality by definition can only come from within. If it's imposed from outside, it's not morality, it's just mental or physical subjugation.

if you need the threat of divine retribution or the promise of post-death paradise to persuade you to behave in a human fashion, you're not much of a human. Never mind page 292



You can enforce moral behaviour on other people, but you can't force them to BE moral.

Morality, like love, can only come from inside, so teach your kids why other people matter. That's all the incentive they need to

Play Nicely

NEVER MIND
www.nevermind.com

*Acting morally is not the same as being moral.

MEANING WHAT, EXACTLY?

The religious also often claim that their belief system is the only possible source of meaning in your life. If you accept that acting as a willing, unquestioning slave to someone else's invisible & imaginary super-friend in some way imparts meaning to your existence, that is. We've already covered this one, because 'meaning' is a synonym for 'purpose'. However, 'Nevermind' does devote a chapter to it, so, in brief:-

'Meaning', like morality, or love, is a purely internal construct. It can't be imposed from outside.

The technical reason for that is because as you saw in 'Nevermind', you've bootstrapped your mind from a blank

state to its current state all on your own, and the 'YOU' inside your mind is the one thing in the entire universe that you can take all the credit for.

How could a purpose be specified in advance for an entity that doesn't yet exist, and builds itself moment by moment, changing constantly? The only possible 'meaning' to such an entity would be a purpose it assigns to itself.

SIMULATED UNIVERSES

- In a simulated universe, the problems we've discussed **DO NOT EXIST**. That should interest the religious, whose belief systems are describing in non-technical terms a basic form of simulation.



THE MATRIX!
NOTHING IS REAL
EVERYTHING IS SIMULATED

- >**RUN** Simulations need an encapsulating wider reality in which to run, are transient compared to that meta-reality, and have been created deliberately by an external intelligence who can instigate miraculous exceptions to the normal flow of events at will. So... **IS** this a simulated universe?

There's an **easy experiment** to tell whether or not we're in a simulation, which is explained in 'Nevermind', but it's irrelevant in terms of the current discussion...



...**BECAUSE...** there's **no free will** in a simulation. Both it and the simulated minds within it are digital. You can specify their current state with total precision so their future is **pre-determined**. No free will, no 'YOU'

- SUMMARY -

★ Gods can't interfere supernaturally in a real universe without ending **causality**, which would, among other things, destroy any prospect of **free will**. Without causality, macroscopic events occur spontaneously, and that includes the events that are your 'decisions', which would now just be random selections.



- Without free will, you can't **choose** whether or not to obey the commands of your deity, so the whole universe would turn into a gigantic pointless celestial vanity-publishing project. Nevermind Page 24

It doesn't stop at free will, either, because **everything** depends on causality. Even a single 'miracle' would convert this universe into a chaotic a-causal nightmare.

★ Gods can't even **observe** what's happening inside the universe, because that would require interaction with its particles, constituting supernatural interference which... ends causality.



...and that means **praying is talking to yourself**. No one can hear you and nobody will ever respond. On the other hand, no supernatural being is taking notes as you and your special friend get

jiggy with it after lights out. Nevermind Page +

- SUMMARY (cont.) -

★ All religious texts were written by humans, without direct input from any god, because that would be supernatural interference, which... ends causality.



★ "It's VASTLY more likely the Big Bang resulted from a natural cause rather than some kind of intelligence outside spacetime Occam's Razor demands it"
R. R. Deehai.

★ There's no possibility of a 'divine plan', because of inherent randomness at the smallest scales, and Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle.



★ For the same reasons, the Earth, life, and humans weren't deliberately created by any god. The universe is at best adequately determined, and has been for over 13.8 billion years.

No deity created you, but even so, you as an individual are very definitely special, because **you create yourself** from moment to moment in a unique personal process that will never be repeated... **The purpose of your life** is yours and yours alone to define, no supernatural agency has imposed a purpose on you, or ever will.

- SUMMARY (cont.)

★ There's no afterlife. As the thought experiments in 'Nevermind' show, your intellect is **purely physical**. Even if you want to dispute that fact, 'YOU' are at least **partly physical**, storing your memories in your brain. That means there's no way to move 'YOU' out of this universe without destroying causality. 'Souls' are therefore pointless, & don't need to exist, which is good news because there's no evidence for them either. Bottom line: **nobody's going to a 'heaven' OR a 'hell'**.

★ Same goes for reincarnation or rebirth: it's **impossible** because of the physics of a real universe. There's no way to capture the uniquely encoded neuron/synapse information that defines 'YOU' and use it to **overwrite the structure of another brain**.

Even religions accept there's no evidence for 'SOULS'.



- ☛ You may be thinking this all sounds rather bleak, but
- ☛ is there anything **definite** we can say about what
- ☛ happens after death? Rather surprisingly, **yes we can**, and it's a direct consequence of your mind being
- ☛ **purely physical...** Never mind if I'm wrong!

INFAMOUS LAST WORDS

- So there you have it. The kind of universe the religions claim we're in and the kind of universe we actually inhabit are **mutually exclusive**. There are no gods, miracles, heavens, hells or next lives **BECAUSE** we can have causality, free will, sat-nav, modern medicine and Facebook. You simply can't have both. If you want to cling to your religion, you have a problem, because short of explicitly choosing to think that everything you see around you is a lie, or cranking up the **cognitive dissonance** setting in your head to a mental-gasket blowing level,

You Need to MAKE A SIMPLE choice:



APPENDIX FOR THE RELIGIOUS

The facts presented in this book aren't especially complicated, and are all independently verifiable, should you feel the urge. I'm acutely aware that if you're religious, what you've just read may have been sufficient to cause a few tiny hints of doubt to appear in your worldview. Strangely enough, that's actually a **good thing**, because faith can't exist without doubt, in the same way that bravery can't exist without fear. You need doubt in order to make faith possible, in other words, and frankly, if you truly want to be free, you need to embrace your doubt, in the same way that you need to embrace your hunger if you truly want to lose weight.

Having said that, I'm also aware that you have most likely opted for the '**cognitive dissonance**'* route, which not only presents **you** with a problem, but **me** too, because the last thing I'm interested in doing is inflicting mental pain on another human being. I've therefore decided to try and help you see **why** you feel the need for religion, and the obvious place to start is with a discussion about what religions actually are.

WHAT ARE RELIGIONS?

Religions are the hard shells the various GOD-MEMES' erect around themselves for protection, and to enhance their chances of spreading outwards. These memes

* **Cognitive dissonance**

the mental discomfort (psychological stress) experienced by a person who simultaneously holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values. Without internal psychological consistency, it's hard for a person to mentally function optimally in the real world.

APPENDIX (CONT.)

are probably best described as viral, self-replicating mental malware. If you're religious, you're the unwitting host of a GOD-MEME, a parasitic mental infection that has no purpose except to persist, and spread itself. Regardless of the severity, mental problems aren't usually communicable, but GOD-MEMES are *contagious*. The usual way to pick one up is to be introduced into a specific faith by your own parents, so don't blame yourself for this:- at the time this **indoctrination** occurred, you were too young to resist, or even question what was happening to you. Never forget that evolution programs us to copy and trust our primary caregivers, so you did exactly what your genetic imperatives instructed you to do.

While this institutionalised infant indoctrination is essential from the religion's point of view (it's the easiest and most infallible way for the GOD-MEME to ensure its own persistence), it's a bad thing for the individual; not least because it is deliberate interference in the attempts of another human to master that highest and most difficult mental skill; the ability to tell the difference between the real and the imaginary.

It can take years to learn this skill, and it's essential for *self-awareness*. In fact, as you'll know if you've read 'Nevermind', it's required in order to manifest *any* of the higher aspects of intelligence that exist above the level of basic volition.

Obstructing that process deliberately is a terrible thing to do to another human being, even if it is being done for the noblest reasons, because without a firm grasp on reality,

APPENDIX (CONT.)

it's impossible to make optimum use of the unique human ability to manipulate the virtual, and I'm sure you can see why that would be a **major** problem for a collaborative, social species like us.

HOW DO GOD-MEMES WORK?

All GOD-MEMES, and the religions that encase them, exploit a number of weaknesses in the human mind to propagate themselves. The most important and omnipresent weakness is **fear**. That particular emotion undoubtedly serves a useful evolutionary purpose, and fear of the unknown is a perfectly normal or even necessary aspect of the human condition. However, once self-awareness begins to manifest, a whole new **abstract** level of fear appears, as we become aware of the possibility of **our own mortality**.

This is the primary target religions zero in on to herd you into compliance, and if you wanted to be brutally frank, you could even say that all religions are, at their memetic core, nothing but bronze-age peasant attempts to **deny mortality**, using only the tiny amount of crude and inaccurate information about the natural world available to them at that point in human history.

The secondary target also involves fear, and is the **sense of inadequacy** all humans occasionally experience. Once again, these feelings are **completely natural**, and are the inevitable result of combining self awareness with the concept of 'status', itself a higher-level expression of a primal need for companionship, supplied by evolution.

APPENDIX (CONT.)

These weaknesses can't be eliminated because of the way we implement self-awareness, but most people STRIVE to handle them in an adult, rational manner. That's why deliberately encouraging and reinforcing these negative emotions in others is an appallingly antisocial activity. Telling you that you are continually failing to live up to some arbitrary standard, or were 'born into sin', or need another life to improve yourself are examples of classic control techniques that rely on convincing you there's something wrong with you; something that can only be 'fixed' by the helpful sales person pointing out the deficiency. It's no different to the kind of high-pressure marketing tricks you probably sneer at in other areas of your life.

Perhaps the most dangerous consequence of allowing religion to take root in your mind is that it steals away your imagination, your creativity, your natural curiosity about the world around you, replacing it with a single dank and useless meme: "**Stop thinking! God did it!**" Rebirth religions are if anything even worse, because their meme relies on **trivialising the incredible achievement of every self-aware human; building a 'YOU' from scratch, without help**. Throttling your intellect in this way will prevent you from living up to your own astounding potential in the only existence you can be certain about, which will also be reflected in any contribution you do manage to make to society as a whole, so perhaps you should lose the exclamation marks and instead try "**Stop Thinking God Did It**".

Nothing else is required for a GOD-MEME to take root and infest a functional human mind; either of those two weaknesses will do. Both are only aspects of a broader, more

APPENDIX (CONT.)

basic condition. A fear of death, or feelings of self-doubt essentially mean **you haven't found yourself** (my abject apologies for using such a flowery new age phrase, but it really does describe the situation rather well).

If you understand what your own mind actually is, what it's for and what it is capable of, you'll also understand what it means to be **'YOU'**. From that point onwards, the kind of fears religions exploit will have no power over you, because a mind that understands itself has no fear of its own termination. How could it, when as I explain in 'Nevermind', what happens after your physical death is no longer an 'unknown', and isn't anywhere near as bleak as you may have been led to believe. How do you 'find yourself'? You don't need to travel to Tibet, or survive on lotus blossoms for 10 years; you don't need to attach yourself to some kind of 'guru' either. All you need to do is turn your formidable self built intellect inwards and **start trying to observe your own mind in operation**. It's not difficult to do, but if you can't figure out where to start, the easiest method is explained in 'Nevermind', as a series of incredibly simple thought experiments.

No matter how you get there, once you understand your own 'self', you'll be immune to the kind of abusive nonsense religions peddle.

You'll be free, in a way you can't presently imagine.



it's easy to
FIND
yourself

st need to

FREQUENT RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

These are a few of the most common questions asked by the religious, and not covered a zillion times on forums. They're a bit more technical, so only read them if you **really** need to.

1. How can an itty bitty miracle end causality?

If you regard the overall universe as a gestalt, one a causal event would technically make the entire universe a-causal, because there's no longer any way to explain the transition in state from the previous iteration of the universe as a whole to this state using only the laws of physics. The universe, you might say, is a **container for causality**, which is why shit happens, supernatural events don't.

At the other extreme, consider a single particle, which we'll call 'Alice'. Alice's current state is the net result of all the interactions Alice has had with other particles over time, all the way back to her origin. For Alice's current state to be described as 'causally valid', it must be possible to explain all Alice's state transitions using nothing except the laws of physics and the previous states of the particles involved in those transitions, and that applies to every particle that has affected the process. After all, an a-causal effect imposed at any point puts Alice into an a-causal state, and after that there's no way for Alice's state to become causally valid again, because you can't rewind to Alice's origin without at some point encountering an input into the



FREQUENT RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

process that's inexplicable using the universe's physical laws. Put simply, a particle is in a causally valid state if it and its antecedents haven't experienced any a-causal effects since the Big Bang. Effects produced by particles already in a causally invalid state are a-causal effects. That's the essential nature of the problem, because a single particle in an a-causal state corrupts the causality chains of any other particles it interacts with. Their states can no longer be explained without invoking an a-causal effect, and as they too flip over into an a-causal state, they spread the a-causality in a **chain reaction** expanding outwards into the surrounding spacetime at light-speed. We've never witnessed causally invalid states, which is a good thing, because an a-causal universe where such events were possible wouldn't look much like our current universe. There's no need to worry about it though, because if the universe ever did switch into an a-causal state, your own intelligence would become impossible, so 'you' couldn't experience it. An easy way to visualise this is to think of it like a 'chain of reasoning'. If any of the links of the chain are invalid, the entire chain from that point onwards is no longer valid either, and that includes the conclusion. In case you're wondering, ALL so-called supernatural events, or 'miracles' have turned out on closer inspection to be natural events that we've misinterpreted. Without exception.

2. How can all this 'stuff' have popped into existence without a 'creator'?

Science doesn't have a generally accepted answer to this question yet. That doesn't imply the answer is 'god did it', it just means we're working on it. No doubt science will get there eventually, just like it did with germ theory, evolution,

FREQUENT RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

relativity, and so on. The main confusion in the minds of the religious seems to be the idea that **something** can spring from **nothing**. Here's a thought that will twist your melon: imagine you buy a house for 100,000 on a mortgage. What's your net worth? You have a house worth 100,000 and 100,000 of debt, so overall, your position is **ZERO**. Similarly, the universe is 'flat', so the overall energy contained within it sums to zero. The positive contributions are balanced exactly by the negative to give an overall position of zilch. That's experimentally confirmable in more than one way, incidentally.

In other words, if you regard the universe as a whole, there's actually **nothing to see here kids** despite how it looks from our human perspective. The question then resolves into something simpler yet even stranger: did the kind of 'nothing' religious people imagine existed 'before' the Big Bang actually transition into the kind of 'nothing' we appear to exist in now? And if so, how? As you can see, brighter minds than ours will need to focus on the problem to come up with a solution. It may take some time, but it will happen, because we're a curious species, and we demand answers; most of us even demand that those answers have utility, in fact.

3. Why don't atheists have commandments?

What, you mean like:- **TO THINE OWN SPECIES BE TRUE**

4. Why do atheists have such a downer on religion?

First off, very few atheists are hating on religious people. That would be like hating on people suffering from dyslexia. It wouldn't be rational, because in the main, it's not their

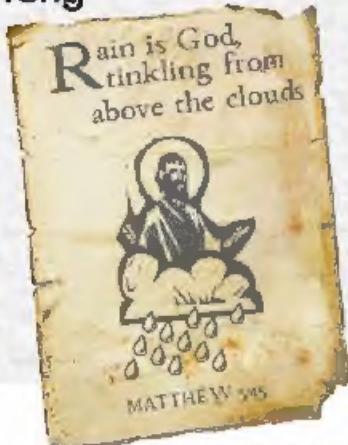
FREQUENT RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

fault. So... do atheists hate **religion**? Probably, because not even the religious can have failed to notice the horrendous evil being done in the name of their gods on a daily basis. Suicide bombings, genital mutilation and child abuse, the wanton squandering of scarce world resources on gigantic vanity projects (such as cathedrals, or the 'Ark Experience') when millions of children are starving to death; you name it, religion is guilty of it. Proud of it, even. The most horrific implication of contracting a **GOD-MEME**, however, is one you may not have considered:- if you teach people to deliberately suspend their rationality, they can suspend their humanity. If they can suspend their humanity, they become capable of committing or condoning **ANY** act imaginable.

Some atheists may indeed hate religion, but **science** hates it more, because the religious seem unable to understand that their worldview is broken, even though it's blazingly clear that **religions have absolutely no predictive utility**.

Worldviews without predictive abilities are totally worthless, and if you don't understand why science's proven ability to predict is so important, here you go:-

wrong



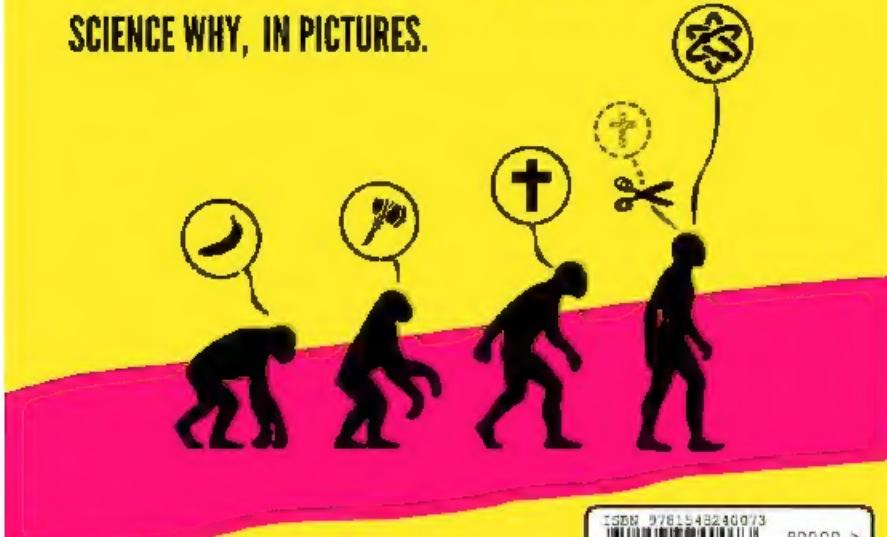
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**EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION ON
GODS, MIRACLES, HEAVENS,
HELLS AND NEXT LIVES.**



**HOWEVER, YOU DON'T NEED AN *OPINION* ANYMORE,
BECAUSE THE **FACTS** ARE IN. ALL RELIGIONS
ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH A REAL
UNIVERSE AND HERE'S THE SURPRISINGLY SIMPLE
SCIENCE WHY, IN PICTURES.**



R R Deehan

